

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/915,159

Examiner

Matthew O Savage

Applicant(s)

KNIGHT, STEVEN R.

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 9-22-03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-9, 41-43, 10-24, 26-28, 44, 29-31, 33-40, and 45 renumbered 1-42, respectively.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB(08), Paper No. _____)
- 4 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 5 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6 ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____
- 7 ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9 ☐ Other

M. Savage
Matthew O Savage
Primary Examiner
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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Christopher Hunter on 11-24-03.

1. (Amended) A filter including a canister with a closed end an opposite open end and ports for receiving fluid to be filtered and for discharging filtered fluid; a central standpipe with a distal free end toward the open end of the canister, the distal free end of the standpipe having attachment means; a cover enclosing the open end of the canister and having a central opening; and a filter element in the canister for filtering the fluid; and further including an indicator handle assembly, the indicator handle assembly having a body with:

i) a collar extending through the central opening in the cover with corresponding attachment means which cooperates with the attachment means of the standpipe, and a handle extending through the body which can be manually manipulated by the operator to attach the indicator handle assembly to the standpipe; and

ii) a device [responsive to fluid pressure within the filter canister, the device] supported for movement within the indicator handle body in response to fluid pressure in said standpipe, said device [and] providing an indication as to when [of a predetermined] fluid pressure [differential across the element] within the standpipe falls below a predetermined value indicating that the filter element is spent and needs to be

replaced with a fresh element, wherein the handle engages the device and axially guides the device within the body and prevents relative rotation of the device with respect to the body.

4. (Amended) The filter as in claim 1, wherein the body includes a central chamber with an opening at one end into the [canister] collar which is fluidly connected with the [canister] standpipe.

Claim 6 has been canceled.

10. (Amended) A filter including a canister with a closed end and an opposite open end, and a cover enclosing the open end of the canister and having a central opening, the filter including ports for receiving fluid to be filtered and for discharging filtered fluid, a ring shaped filter element received in the canister for separating contaminants from the fluid, the canister having a central axially extending standpipe projecting from the closed end of the canister, through the filter element towards the opposite open end of the canister, the distal free end of the standpipe having a threaded portion; and further including an indicator T-handle assembly, the

indicator T-handle assembly having a body with:

i) a handle portion having a collar extending through the central opening in the cover and having a threaded portion cooperating with the threaded portion of the central standpipe to retain the cover on the canister, and a handle rod extending through the

body which can be grasped by an operator and rotated to screw the indicator T-handle assembly onto and off of the central standpipe; and

ii) a mechanical indicator portion including a button [responsive to fluid pressure within the filter canister, the button] movable within the body in response to fluid pressure within the standpipe to provide a visual indication as to when [of a predetermined] pressure [differential across the element] within the standpipe falls below a predetermined value indicating that the filter element is spent and needs to be replaced with a fresh element, wherein the handle rod engages and axially guides the button and prevents relative rotation of the button with respect to the body.

14. (Amended) The filter as in claim 10, wherein the body includes a central chamber with an opening at one end into the [canister] collar which is fluidly connected with the [canister] standpipe.

20. (Amended) The filter as in claim 10, and further including a spring biasing the button into a fresh element position, the button moveable against the spring into a spend element position when the fluid pressure [differential exceeds] falls below the predetermined value.

23. (Amended) A handle indicator assembly for fixing a cover to a filter canister, the handle indicator assembly comprising a body having:

i) a collar which can be inserted through a central opening in the cover and having means for attaching the collar to a central standpipe in the canister, an internal passage through the collar to a central chamber in the body and, a handle extending through the central chamber which can be grasped by an operator and manipulated to attach the body to the central standpipe; and

ii) an indicator device in the central chamber [responsive] axially movable in response to fluid pressure received through the passage, and providing an indication [of a predetermined] as to when pressure [differential across the element] in the passage falls below a predetermined value, wherein the handle engages and axially guides the device and prevents relative rotation of the device with respect to the [housing] body.

Claim 25 has been canceled.

29. (Amended) A T-handle indicator assembly, comprising a body with:

i) a handle portion including a handle rod extending through the body, [with] a threaded collar, an internal passage through the collar to a chamber in the body; and

ii) a mechanical indicator portion including a button in the chamber responsive to fluid pressure received through the passage, the button moveable within the body to provide an indication [of a predetermined] as to when pressure [differential across the element] within the chamber falls below a predetermined value, wherein the handle engages and axially guides the button and prevents relative rotation of the button with respect to the [housing] body.

Claim 32 has been canceled.

38. (Amended) The filter as in claim 29, and further including a spring biasing the button into a fresh element position, the button moveable against the spring into a spend element position when the fluid pressure [differential exceeds] falls below the predetermined value.

In claim 43, "indicator" has been deleted.

On page 7 of the specification: on line 9, "47" has been changed to -41--; on line 14, "46" has been changed to -41--; and on line 20, "45" has been changed to -41--.

On line 14 of page 8, "45" has been changed to -41--.

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

FIG. 2 must be amended to include a lead line and reference number 11 to point out the canister, and a lead line and reference number 34 to point out the internal threaded portion of the standpipe;

FIG. 4 must be amended to include a lead line and reference number 64 for the finned upper end of the button.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Marvel is considered the closest prior art.

Marvel is considered the closest prior art, with respect to claims 1 and 23, and Marvel taken in combination with Cooper is considered the closest prior art with respect to claims 10 and 29, however, none of the references teach or suggest the limitation of the handle engaging and axially guiding the device/button to prevent relative rotation between the device/button with respect to the body as recited in instant claims 1, 10, 23, and 29.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O Savage whose telephone number is 703-308-3854. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda W. Walker can be reached on 703-308-0457. The fax phone

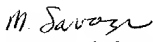
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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.


Matthew O Savage
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

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November 25, 2003